
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE United States Capitol is revered by Americans because it manifests the contributions of successive generations who have built, ornamented, remodeled, restored, or preserved a monument that symbolizes the growth and evolution of our representative form of government. It was the desire to understand this historic character of the building's architecture that inspired Glenn Brown to research and to produce a two-volume *History of the United States Capitol* (1900 and 1903). Through his research into the history of the Capitol, Brown became absorbed in the modern planning and development of Washington. His scholarship renewed public appreciation of Pierre Charles L'Enfant's 1791 plan for the city of Washington and would ultimately inspire its revival in new urban plans for the capital. Initially published as a Senate document, the *History* was a sumptuous book, the product of the Progressive era in which the United States emerged as a major nation-state and was seeking symbols to commemorate its status as a world power.

The purpose of this annotated edition is to revive a classic work of American architectural history that not only provides important information on the development of the Capitol but also is a remarkable visual record of the building and the art collection at the turn of the century. The publication is not intended to substitute for a new architectural history of the Capitol, nor is it a simple facsimile of the original book. In 1970 the Da Capo Press of New York published a smaller one-volume reprint of the *History*, which has long been out of print. The present book has been designed as a new critical edition of Glenn Brown's architectural history. I explore the author's background, biases, and achievements in an introductory profile and provide annotations to the text when necessary to correct errors, identify sources, describe controversial issues, or point readers to further modern published versions of cited documents or

information on selected topics. Misspellings or factual errors and inconsistencies in Brown's original text, including those in the table of contents, list of plates, captions, and tables, have not been altered.

Brown largely reproduced drawings and works of art from the collections of the Library of Congress and the Architect of the Capitol, but he also copied prints in the collections of prominent Washingtonians. In the present edition, contemporary high-quality color or black-and-white photographs of architectural drawings, prints, and paintings have been used in place of the original black-and-white plates; entire images have been used in place of cropped versions. Special care has been taken to reproduce the book's original photographic views, which are invaluable images of the building at the turn of the century and represent a major body of architectural photography produced by master photographer Frances Benjamin Johnston. Johnston's photographs of architectural views have been scanned.

Research on this volume was completed in 1993, at the beginning of the bicentennial period. Additional major works concerning the Capitol published since that time are not reflected in the footnotes but are listed in the bibliography. These include Charles E. Brownell and Jeffrey Cohen's *The Architectural Drawings of Benjamin Henry Latrobe*, Pamela Scott's *Temple of Liberty: Building the Capitol for a New Nation*, Barbara A. Wolanin's *Constantino Brumidi: Artist of the Capitol*, William C. Allen's *History of the United States Capitol: A Chronicle of Design, Construction, and Politics*, and William Kloss and Diane K. Skvarla's *United States Senate Catalogue of Fine Art*.

The research and the preparation of the draft manuscript for this new edition of Brown's *History* was made possible by a fellowship program funded by the United States Capitol Historical Society and jointly administered by the Architect of the Capitol. Research conducted with

this support led to the completion of my 1988 dissertation for the George Washington University, entitled “Glenn Brown, the American Institute of Architects, and the Development of the Civic Core of Washington, D.C.,” and to the preparation of the draft manuscript for this work. I wish to thank the United States Capitol Historical Society, which supported this project from its inception. Society president Fred Schwengel had a keen interest in Glenn Brown and provided unfailing support of this project before his death in 1993. I am also indebted to his successors, who have continued and expanded the Society’s mission and have strongly backed scholarly work related to the Capitol.

The preparation for publication of this new edition of Brown’s architectural history was made possible by funding from the United States Capitol Preservation Commission beginning in 1991. The proposal for the book was presented to the commission by the Architect of the Capitol, who has been responsible for managing the project. I am grateful for the support given to the proposal by then Secretary of the Senate Walter J. Stewart; Richard Baker, Historian, U.S. Senate; James Ketcham, then Curator of Art, U.S. Senate; and Raymond Smock, then Historian, U.S. House of Representatives. The printing of the book was authorized by the Congress with the support of the commission. For his support and interest in the revival of this classic book and the outstanding administrative support that I received while working on this edition, I am indebted to then Architect of the Capitol George M. White. I would also like to thank the staff of the Architect of the Capitol’s office, including Curator Barbara Wolanin, who not only inspired me to research and produce this monograph on Glenn Brown’s *History* but also has been crucial to sustaining the endeavor. Architectural historian William C. Allen generously shared his extensive knowledge of the Capitol’s architectural history and suggested numerous contributions that greatly improved the content of the final manuscript. Archivists John Hackett and Sarah Turner were my guides to the records of the Architect of the Capitol and deserve thanks for their advice and assistance in locating significant correspondence,

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